

# Frederic Albou, bass-baritone



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After graduating in literature, musicology and conducting, and receiving an award from the CNR of Reims in clarinet, Frédéric Albou started to study singing with Christiane Patard, and worked with such coaches as Janine Reiss, Marie-Jeanne Serero, Olivier Reboul, Erika Guiormar, Jory Vinikour and Brigitte Clair. He also improved his mastery under the advices of Jorge Chamine, Teresa Berganza, Ruggero Raimondi, Alain Fondary, Sergei Leiferkus, Eva Mårtson, Anna Ringart, Russel Smythe and Howard Crook. He has been trained as an actor by Ruth Ortmann, Roberto Maria Grassi and Catherine Riboli, and practises Chinese martial arts with Master Tien Shue.

His is a passionate and committed path dedicated to a wide repertoire. Thus since 1999 he is a member of the Ensemble Kerylos, devoted to Ancient Greek musical scores, founded and conducted by Annie Bélis, with whom he has premiered several works (*Medea* by Karkinos, *Hymn to Lemnos*, by Euripides, Abstract from *Theseus* by Sophokles, *Nequia* from the Oslo Papyrus, *Hymn to Apollo* from the Yale Papyrus), and has performed in such renowned venues as the Grand Amphitheatre de la Sorbonne, the Auditorium du Louvre, or Lyon's Archaeological Museum. Together with that band he also recorded several radio and television broadcasted programmes, and is to prepare a new double CD.

He has also performed Renaissance polyphonic music, particularly with the Huelgas Ensemble, conducted by Paul Van Nevel, with whom he sang in various European festivals (Saintes, Noirlac, Tongeren), and recorded the CD *Sommets de la polyphonie flamande* (Harmonia Mundi). He himself has transcribed many polyphonic scores, which he conducted and sang with the Ensemble Ut Musica Poesis (which he created in 1995) in such venues as the Palais du Tau in Reims. He also sings baroque music, and was Polyphemus in Handel's *Acis and Galatea* for the Festival off in Aix-en-Provence in 2007, conducted by Jean-Paul Serra and staged by Veronica Grange. Again with them both in Aix-en-Provence, in 2009, he took up a new challenge: he played and sang the part of Handel in Hippolyte Wouter's play *Le Choix d'Hercule*. He also sang with the Concert Spirituel, conducted by Hervé Niquet, in the tour *Fastes des cathédrales sous Louis XIV* (Chyprus, Kilkenny, Musée de l'Architecture in Paris, Saintes, Fontevraud), recorded for Glossa (CD).

On stage he has also performed such parts as Apollo, in *Apollo & Hyacinthus* by Mozart, as well as Guglielmo in *Cosi fan tutte* for the Festival off in Aix-en-Provence, conducted by Jean-Paul Serra and staged by Veronica Grange. In Provence, again with Jean-Paul Serra, he sang a programme made of Italian concert Arias by German composers (*Amour à mort*), with a pianoforte and a double-bass: new dates are to follow, from September 2013 on.

He also performed Uberto in *La Serva Padrona* by Pergolesi, at first at the Théâtre du Tambour Royal in Paris: he is to perform it again in a new production in Burgundy, with the company Opera World. He has also sung the part of Don Alfonso in *Cosi fan tutte*.

In June 2013 he sang the part of Taddeo, in *L'Italiana in Algeri*, in a masterclass given in the Villa Viardot in Bougival, under Teresa Berganza's guidance, assisted by Jorge Chamine. In June 2012, he was Count Des Grieux (*Manon*, by Massenet) for the Company Opera Classica Europa, in Frankfurt and in Buc, conducted by Hans Richter, and staged by Michael Vaccaro. He also sang Gremin (*Eugene Onegin* by Tchaikovsky) in Beaune, and Zurga (*Les pêcheurs de perles*, by Bizet) at the Théâtre du Tambour Royal in Paris. He successfully impersonated Wotan in Wagner's *Die Walküre* in Vendôme and Rochambeau in July 2013, under the musical directions of Amaury Du Closel and Alexandre Myrat, and in the Stage Direction of Pierre Thirion-Vallet.

Highly concerned with modern composers, he performed the part of the Wolf in Hans Werner-Henze's *Pollicino* at the Théâtre du Châtelet, conducted by Claire Gibault, and staged by Guy Coutance. He has been the cover for Kissinger in John Adams' *Nixon in China*, in May 2012, again at the Théâtre du Châtelet. He has also performed Bob and Tom in Britten's *Little chimney sweeper*, as well as Peachum in Kurt Weill's *Dreigroschenoper*. He premiered Olivier de L'Hermon's *Le Iota* and performed works by Christopher Lord and Sylvia Filus. The Paris CNSM engaged him to record the prize works by the pupils composers in May 2014. He is also preparing the part of Olin Blitch for a new production of Carlisle Floyd's *Susannah*.

As a concert singer he regularly performs baroque motets (Monteverdi, Viadana, Anerio, Schütz, Schein, Rosenmüller, Johann Christoph Bach, Bruhns, Johann Sebastian Bach) as well as cantatas (Monteverdi, Frescobaldi, Clérambault, Campra, Morin, Johann Sebastian Bach, Handel), or Lieder (Schubert, in the chapel of Château-Thierry's Academy of Music, January 2012), or Russian music, which he champions: thus he took part in 2008 to the Russian night at the Grand Rex, Paris, given by the Ensemble Ellipses, conducted by Philippe Barbey-Lallia (he then performed *Boris Godunov's Coronation Scene* as well as the part of Chernobog, in *A night on the bare mountain*, by Mussorgsky), and in a recital of 15 works by Vladimir Encke, given in October 2012 at the Centre Chostakovitch in Paris, invited by Nikita Krougly-Encke (no works by the composer had ever been performed since his death in Moscow, in 1987). He is now preparing a new concert program, alongside with Michelle Assay and the musicologist David Fannings, devoted to song cycles for the bass voices composed by Myeczyslaw Weinberg, some of them being still to be premiered. He also performs Russian works alongside with the soprano Katia Anapolskaya and the Choir Znamenie.

His Oratorio repertoire includes Handel's *Messiah*, Mozart's *Requiem*, Haydn's *Schöpfung* and *Schöpfungsmesse*, the part of Herodes in Berlioz' *L'Enfance du Christ*, Verdi's *Requiem*, Dvorak's *Missa in D*, Fauré's *Requiem*, César Franck's *Rebecca*, as well as Puccini's *Missa di Gloria*.

In addition to his plans, he is preparing a show devoted to Verdi and Wagner, alongside with the soprano Isabelle Poinloup and the mezzo Virginie fouque, as well as a CD (for TRITON) dedicated to the Cavaillé-Coll organ of the Saint-Pierre / Saint-Paul Church in Epernay, together with Odile Jutten. In June 2014 he will perform Sperafucile in Buc in the edition of Verdi's *Rigoletto* scheduled by the Company Opera Classica Europa. He prepares various recital programs alongside with the Japanese pianist Miki Kubota, to be toured in Great-Britain, Russia and Japan.